

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

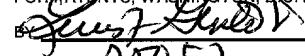
In re Application of: **Taisuke HIRONO ET AL.**

U.S. Serial No.: NOT YET KNOWN

U.S. Filing Date: HEREWITH

For: CUVETTE CONTROL UNIT AND CONTROLLING
METHOD USING THE SAME.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS
CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED
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REG. NO. 25057
DATE July 9, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231
ATTN: BOX AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application, as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend claims 6 and 7 as follows:

6(amended) The cuvette control unit as set forth in claim 1 for controlling a plurality of said cuvettes stored in a cuvette box on which a second bar code is affixed, wherein a second reading means capable of reading said second bar code is provided, a cuvette box identification information producing means for producing cuvette box identification information corresponding to said cuvette box, on which said second bar code is affixed, from said second bar code read by said second reading means is provided, and a storing controlling means for storing said cuvette identification information

corresponding to said cuvette stored in said cuvette box, on which said second bar code is affixed, read by said second reading means, produced by said cuvette identification information producing means, and said cuvette box identification information produced by said cuvette box identification information producing means, corresponding to each other in said memory means is provided.

7.(amended) Controlling method, comprising:

Storing corresponding relation information between blood products information obtained by a third bar code affixed on a blood products storing means storing blood products and said cuvette identification information of said first bar code affixed on said cuvette obtained by said cuvette control unit as set forth in claim 1 in said memory means, when said blood products is processed using said cuvettes; and

controlling said blood products by said cuvette identification information.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is made to place the subject application in better form for examination in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Claims 6 and 7 have been amended to eliminate the multiple dependency of the claims. No new matter has been added.

The number of claims remains within that permitted under the filing fees. Please enter the Preliminary Amendment prior to examination and before calculating filing fees. A clean copy of the claims as amended is provided for the convenience of the examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 9, 2004

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Docket No: 3005-29; (D5620-00026)

MARKED UP VERSION OF CLAIMS

1.(unchanged) Cuvette control unit for controlling cuvettes by reading a first bar code affixed on said cuvette, said first bar code being comprised of codes for controlling located on both end portions and code for information located between said codes for controlling, said cuvette control unit comprising:

a first reading means capable of reading said first bar code;

a cuvette identification information producing means for producing cuvette identification information corresponding to said cuvette on which said first bar code is affixed from said code for controlling and said code for information of said first bar code read by said first reading means; and

a memory means for storing said cuvette identification information produced by said cuvette identification information producing means, corresponding to said cuvette on which said first bar code is affixed.

2.(unchanged) The cuvette control unit as set forth in claim 1, wherein said cuvette identification information producing means produces said cuvette identification information corresponding to said cuvette on which said first bar code is affixed from start code of said codes for controlling and said code for information.

3.(unchanged) The cuvette control unit as set forth in claim 1, wherein said cuvette identification information producing means produces said cuvette identification information producing means produces said cuvette identification information corresponding to said cuvette on

which said first bar code is affixed from stop code of said codes for controlling and said code for information.

4.(unchanged) The cuvette control unit as set forth in claim 1, wherein said cuvette identification information producing means produces said cuvette identification information corresponding to said cuvette on which said first bar code is affixed from start code of said codes for controlling and stop code of said codes for controlling and said code for information.

5.(unchanged) The cuvette control unit as set forth in claim 1, wherein said first bar code is comprised of said codes for controlling comprised of start code and stop code, one digit of said code for information and one digit of code for inspection.

6. (amended) The cuvette control unit as set forth in claim 1 [claims 1 through 5] for controlling a plurality of said cuvettes stored in a cuvette box on which a second bar code is affixed, wherein a second reading means capable of reading said second bar code is provided, a cuvette box identification information producing means for producing cuvette box identification information corresponding to said cuvette box, on which said second bar code is affixed, from said second bar code read by said second reading means is provided, and a storing control means for storing said cuvette identification information corresponding to said cuvette stored in said cuvette box, on which said second bar code is affixed, read by said second reading means, produced by said cuvette identification information producing means, and said cuvette box identification information produced by said cuvette box identification information producing means, corresponding to each other in said memory means is provided.

7.(amended) Controlling method, comprising:

Storing corresponding relation information between blood products information obtained by a third bar code affixed on a blood products storing means storing blood products and said cuvette identification information of said first bar code affixed on said cuvette obtained by said cuvette control unit as set forth in claim 1 [claims 1 through 6] in said memory means, when said blood products is processed using said cuvettes; and

controlling said blood products by said cuvette identification information.

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